

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of creating a pattern for a bead-inlaid plate using a computer, comprising the steps of:
 - providing a colour picture,
 - converting the colour picture to a digital image file suited for electronic processing,
 - showing on a monitor associated with the computer the picture that corresponds to the digital image file,
 - selecting on the monitor, using a user input device of the computer, an area of the shown picture for which a pattern is to be created,
 - selecting a format of a bead-inlaid plate,
 - dividing the selected area of the shown picture into a grid of intersecting lines including squares of a uniform size, each of said squares corresponding to a bead on the bead-inlaid plate, so that the grid of intersecting lines also corresponds to the selected format,
 - determining according to a predetermined algorithm for each square that colour among colours available for beads which best represents or agrees with the colour of the square,
 - showing on the monitor a picture of the selected area including the colour determined for the square in each square,
 - changing on the monitor, using a user input device of the computer, at least one

colour quantity for the picture of the selected area and/or changing the colour in individual squares, and

- finally printing a pattern including the selected colours for the bead-inlaid plate.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the colour quantities include lightness, colour saturation and colour scale.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the steps of selecting format and dividing the selected area include the substeps that an initial format is first selected, that thereupon the selected area is divided according to the initial format, that on the monitor a picture including a grid of intersecting lines drawn according to the initial format is shown, that on the monitor, using a user input device of the computer, the initial format is changed to a changed format, that thereupon the selected area is divided according to the changed format, these substeps being repeated until a desired format has been obtained.

4. (Previously Presented) A device for forming a pattern for a bead-inlaid plate, comprising a computer including a receiving device for a digital image file suited for electronic processing, the computer including

- a unit for showing on the monitor associated with the computer the picture that corresponds to the digital image file,

- a unit for selecting on the monitor, using one of the user input devices of the computer, an area of the shown picture for which a pattern is to be formed,

- a unit for selecting a format of a bead-inlaid plate,

- a unit for dividing the selected area in the shown picture in a grid of intersecting lines including squares of a uniform size which each correspond to a bead on the bead-inlaid plate, so that the grid of intersecting lines also correspond to the selected format,

- a unit for determining, according to a predetermined algorithm, for each square

that colour hue among colour hues available for the beads which best represents or agrees with the colour hue in the square,

- a unit for showing on the monitor a picture of the selected area including the colour determined for each square in each square,

- a unit for selecting on the monitor, using a user input device of the computer, at least one colour quantity for the picture of the selected area and/or changing the colours in individual squares, and

- a unit for finally printing a pattern including the selected colours for the bead-inlaid plate.

5. (New) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the step of showing on the monitor a picture of the selected area includes that for each square a picture of a bead having the determined colour hue.

6. (New) An interactive method for creating a pattern for a bead-inlaid plate using a computer, comprising the steps of:

- converting a color picture to a digital image file which is suitable for electronic processing;

- displaying, on a monitor associated with the computer, a picture that corresponds to the digital image file;

- selecting, on the monitor using a user input device of the computer, an area of the displayed picture for which a pattern is to be created;

- selecting a format of a bead-inlaid plate;

- dividing the selected area of the displayed picture into a grid of intersecting lines including squares of a uniform size, each of said squares corresponding to a bead on the bead-inlaid plate, so that the grid of intersecting lines also corresponds to the selected format;

- identifying, for each of said squares, a color among those colors available for

beads, which best represents a color of the square,

displaying, on the monitor, a picture of the selected area including the colour determined for the square in each square,

modifying, on the monitor using a user input device of the computer, at least one of: a color attribute associated with the picture of the selected area and the color in an individual square, and

printing a pattern including the selected colors for the bead-inlaid plate.

7. (New) The interactive method of claim 6, wherein said step of selecting a format of a bead-inlaid plate further comprises:

selecting a number of beads to be laid in the bead-inlaid plate.

8. (New) The interactive method of claim 7, wherein said step of selecting a number of beads to be laid in the bead-inlaid plate further comprises:

selecting a number of beads to be laid horizontally and a number of beads to be laid vertically.

9. (New) The interactive method of claim 6, wherein said step of printing a pattern further comprises:

printing a picture of said pattern including information associated with a number of beads of each color hue required to fabricate said pattern as a bead-inlaid plate.